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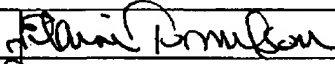
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/248,077	
	Filing Date	Feb 10, 1999	
	First Named Inventor	LADD, David J.	
	Art Unit	2157	
	Examiner Name	A. E. Salad	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	3655/0143PUS1

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Atty. Docket No. 3655/0143P

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	David J. LADD	Conf. No.:	8370
Appln. No.:	09/248,077	Group:	2157
Filed:	February 10, 1999	Examiner:	SALAD, A. E.
For:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TRANSMISSION AND DELIVERY OF TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORMATIONAL APPLIANCES		

APPLICANT'S REPLY BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 223 13-1450

Sir:

The following Reply Brief is submitted to address the new issues raised in the Examiner's Answer mailed April 17, 2008. The arguments presented in Applicant's Second Supplemental Brief on Appeal, filed January 16, 2008, are maintained, but will not be repeated herein.

I. THE EXAMINER HAS MISCHARACTERIZED THE CRADDOCK REFERENCE

The examiner argues in the Examiner's Answer that Craddock teaches "requesting text data such as stocks where the text data would be provided in a synthesized voice message in a voice mail box." This statement is not supported by column 8, line 62 to column 9, line 20, of Craddock as stated in the Examiner's Answer or by any other portion of the Craddock reference. Instead, as argued in Applicant's

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Brief, Craddock teaches that a user can be notified when a predetermined event occurs. Craddock is silent as to the form that the notification will take and provides no suggestion that the notification should comprise a synthesized voice reading text data. Bruce does not show transmitting an audio representation of text format information to a voice mail box, Craddock does not show transmitting an audio representation of text format information to a voice mail box, and the combination of these references in no manner shows or suggests this limitation.

The Examiner's Answer cites to a second portion of Craddock that is unrelated to the event notification functionality of Craddock discussed above. This portion of Craddock is directed to a device that reads the HTML headers of web pages to users over a telephone and has not previously been used to support any claim rejection. No explanation is provided as to how Bruce should be modified to include a web page header reading functionality or how Bruce thus modified would render the pending claim obvious. This second portion of Craddock also does not support a rejection of the pending claims.

II. A PROPER REASON FOR MODIFYING BRUCE HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED

Neither Bruce nor Craddock suggests providing directions to a voice mail box associated with a user's telephone number. The Examiner's Answer seems to suggest that it might be possible to modify Bruce to meet the limitations of claim 12, but no proper reason for making such a modification has been provided. The background section of Bruce suggests that the purpose of his invention is to provide immediate assistance to drivers who are lost (column 1, lines 62-65) and who may not know their

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own location (column 2, lines 31-34). To this end, the driver can interact with a live operator to obtain help. To avoid keeping a live operator on the line, the service of the Bruce invention provides a recording of the information needed by the driver so that the driver can pause or reply the information (column 3, lines 6-9) or press a key to get a live operator back on the line (column 10, line 44). Indeed, even the title of the Bruce patent, "Method and System for Providing Quick Directions" suggest the real-time intention of the invention. Bruce thus teaches, essentially, a system that allows a person who is lost to use a telephone instead of stopping to ask for directions.

The examiner suggests that it would be obvious to modify Bruce to send directions to a voice mail box associated with a user's telephone number so that the subscriber can listen to the direction "at the subscriber's leisure." However, neither Bruce nor Craddock is directed to obtaining information at a user's leisure. Both references discuss providing information to a user in a timely fashion. Moreover, nothing in Bruce or Craddock explains how Bruce's system will obtain the telephone number of a user's voice mail box in order to send information to the voice mail box. Likewise, nothing in Bruce or Craddock explains how the modified Bruce system will place a telephone call to a user's voice mail box since Bruce only discloses a system for receiving telephone calls. For these reasons, even if Bruce and Craddock are somehow combined, the resulting system will not be able to make an outgoing telephone call or obtain the contact information necessary to send directions to a user's voice mail box. The combination of references in no manner renders obvious the inventions of the pending claims.

For these reasons, a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented in

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connection with the rejections of any claims, and the allowance of claims 12-16, 27-30, 35-39, and 42-59 is earnestly solicited.

Dated: June 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By

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